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RESPONSE AFTER FINAL
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 1711

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AS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Tetsuji KAWAZURA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1711

Application No.: 09/506,443

Examiner: Jeffrey C. Mullis

Filed: February 18, 2000

Atty. Dkt. No.: 100021-09056

For: RUBBER COMPOSITION

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

January 22, 2002

Sir:

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action dated October 19, 2001, in connection with the above-identified patent application. Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments without prejudice.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 14 as follows. A marked-up copy showing changes to the claims is attached hereto.

Claim 1. (Amended) A rubber composition comprising (i) an incompatible polymer blend comprising at least two diene rubbers selected from the group consisting of rubbers containing at least one conjugated diene monomer and, optionally, at least one aromatic vinyl monomer and forming two incompatible polymer phases (A) and (B) and (ii) 0.1 to 20 parts by weight, based upon 100 parts by weight of the total polymer component